

GLORIA BRITANICA
AND THE
UNIVERSALITY OF ANGLO-SAXONISM.

A PAPER READ AT THE
CONVENTION of the NORTH AMERICAN ST. GEORGE'S UNION,

AT

TORONTO, AUGUST 30, 1883,

BY

LEWIS ABRAHAM

OF WASHINGTON, D. C.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
BODD & DETWELLER, PRINTERS.

1883.

GLORIA BRITANICA

AND THE

UNIVERSALITY OF ANGLO-SAXONISM.

A PAPER READ AT THE
CONVENTION of the NORTH AMERICAN ST. GEORGE'S UNION,

AT
TORONTO, AUGUST 30, 1883,

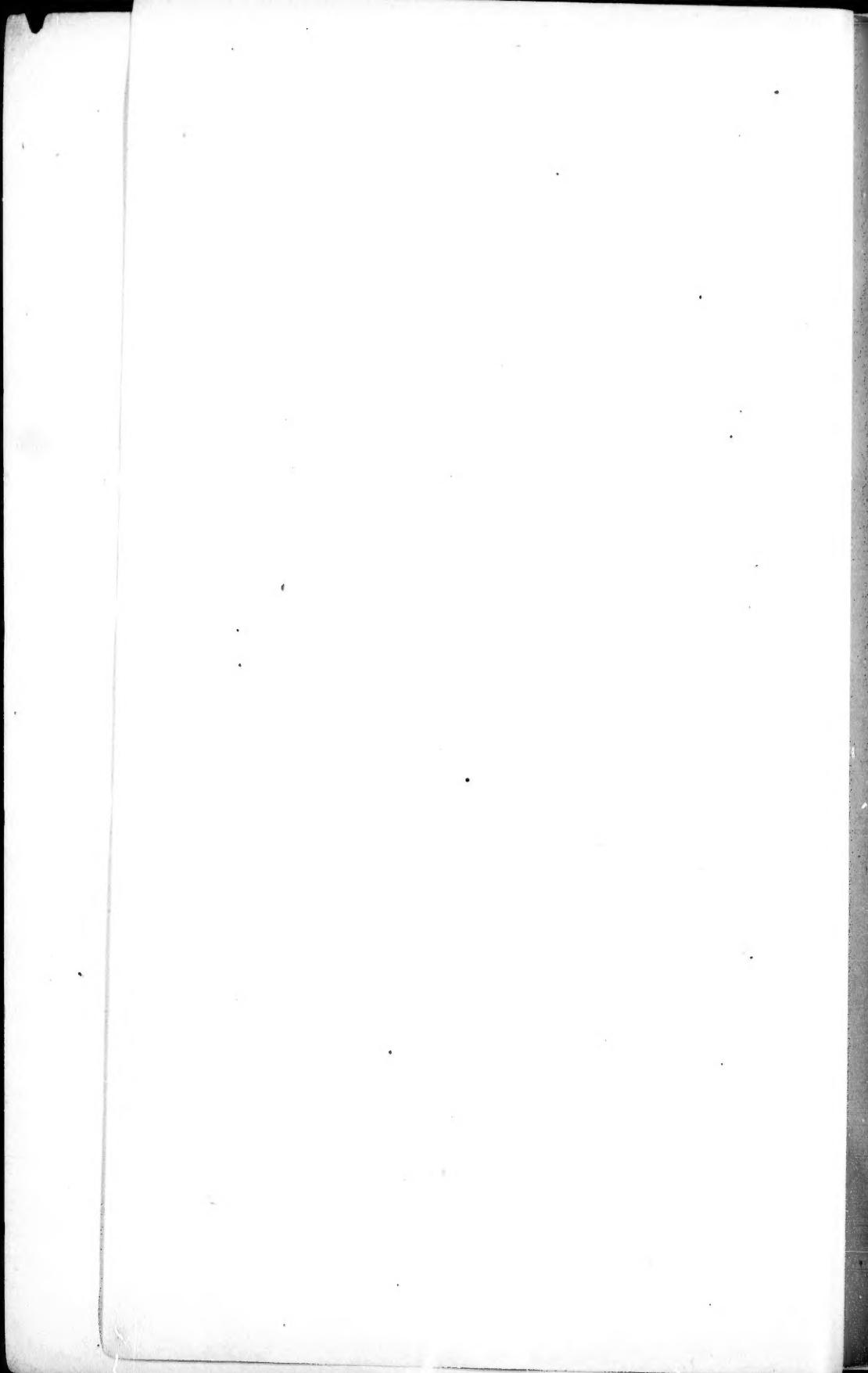
BY

LEWIS ABRAHAM,
OF WASHINGTON, D. C.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, D. C. :
JUDD & DETWEILER, PRINTERS.
1883.



ENGLAND.

“That pale, that white-faced shore
Whose foot spurns back the ocean’s waving tides,
And coops from other lands her islanders.
* * * that England, hedged in with the main,
That water-walled bulwark, still secure
And confident from foreign purpose.”

K. John: A. II, 1.

“That royal throne of kings, that scepter’d isle,
That earth of majesty, that seat of Mars,
That other Eden, demi-paradise,
That fortress built by nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war;
That happy breed of men, that little world,
That precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves in it the office of a wall,
Or as a mote defensive to a house
Against the envy of less happier lands;
That blessed plot, that earth, that realm, that England;
That nurse, that teeming womb of royal kings,
Feared by their brood and famous by their birth;
That land of such dear souls, that dear, dear land,
Dear for her reputation through the world.”

Rich. II: A. II, 1.

"I have made only a nosegay of culled flowers, and have brought nothing of my own but the string that ties them."

Montaigne.

No effort has been made to arrange the following excerpts in chronological order, but rather to group kindred subjects as treated by authors of separate nationalities.

Territorial changes of great consequence have, of course, taken place since most of the selected articles were written, and naturally no attempt has been made to correct the quoted statistics so that they should accord with the record of the present day.*

It must be borne in mind history was not being compiled. I have been simply "a snapper up of unconsidered trifles."

L. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *October, 1883.*

* "The colonies and dependencies of Great Britain embrace about one-seventh of the land surface of the globe and nearly one-fourth of its population. The total area is estimated at 7,647,000 English square miles, or more than sixty times the extent of the United Kingdom. Of this vast dominion 3,000,000 square miles are in America, 500,000 in Africa, 1,000,000 in Asia, and more than 2,000,000 in Australia. April 4, 1881, the total population of the United Kingdom was 35,262,762, and of the colonies about 270,000,000."—*Statesman's Year Book, 1883.*

That England in its marvelous progress should have excited envy is but natural, but the effect of its dissemination of the grand principles of liberty and enlightenment that underlie Anglo-Saxonism has wrung alike from friend and foe unstinted recognition.

It is not to be wondered that pride and affection for the "old house at home" is felt by those to the manor born, as well as reverence for an *alma mater* among those sprung from the loins of sterling ancestry. I propose to review some testimonials collated from the tomes of history relative to the greatness of the British Empire, drawn indifferently from distinguished writers of various nationalities.

Milton, in his *Areopagitica*, utters these grand words:

"Lords and Commons of England, consider what nation it is whereof ye are, and whereof ye are the governors; a nation not slow and dull, but of a quick, ingenious, and piercing spirit; acute to invent, subtile and sinewy to discourse, not beneath the reach of any point, the highest that human capacity can soar to. Yet that which is above all this, the favor, and the love of Heaven, we have great argument to think in a peculiar manner propitious and propending towards us."

Mr. Gladstone says:

"There is no parallel in all the records of the world to the case of that prolific British mother, who has sent forth her innumerable children over all the earth to be the founders of half a dozen empires. Her eldest daughter, the American Republic, has risen in round numbers in one single century from two to forty-five millions."

Emerson says:

"The creation of wealth in England during the last century is a main fact in modern history. The wealth of England determines prices all over the globe."

Carpenter says:

"The amount of interest paid on our enormous loans in England alone exceeds six millions sterling in a single month."

The *Westminster Review* says:

"Foreign countries have, during the last thirty years, added three thousand million pounds sterling to their debts, and the British people are the great lenders."

"Our thinkers know that Britain and America to-day own and control the vast reservoirs of wealth, the immense gold fields, the silver mines, the oil wells, the constantly replenishing fisheries, and the immense, the almost immeasurable wheat fields. In addition to all this, we all know that the genius, the brain, the skill, the push, that employs the wind and water, the steam and electricity, is very largely possessed by the same people.

"The immense sum of nearly £2,800,000,000 is now owing to England from foreign nations, and they are continually coming for more. 'A loan is announced for some State in the Old World or the New,' and the subscriptions so pour into the banks appointed to receive them, that the usual thing is for many millions more than are required to be offered in a week, sometimes in a day; the applications for permission to lend to the borrower being so numerous, that an applicant is not permitted to contribute more than a half, or a third, or less than that of what he offers. So enormous are the loans, that the amount of interest paid upon them in England alone sometimes exceeds five or six millions sterling in a single month. And while they have thus lent and are still lending, the amount of unemployed capital is often so great that, though offered on loan at from 2 to 3 per cent., borrowers cannot be found."

The question is often asked, "How is it that that little island on the rocks owns and governs so many great nations and peoples on the other side of the globe?"

An eminent writer says:

"There is half a million of cities, towns, and villages now under British rule. India alone has over sixteen nations, with a population of over 200,000,000 of people, and immense wealth and energy.

"The Anglo-Saxon everywhere is destined to rule. He has, somehow or other, a sort of instinct for governing. There is in him the right stuff to make governors of.

"You all know that passage in *Eothen* where Kinglake tells us how the people of Cairo cleared the way for him as he rode on a donkey. The donkey-boy ran ahead, shrieking as he ran: 'Eh, Shiek, eh, bwit, reggelek, shumalek.' 'O, old man, O, old virgin, get out of the way on the right. O, old virgin, O, old man, get out of the way on the left. This Englishman comes, he comes, he comes,'"

Here is an extract from the pen of Mr. Vernadsky, a Russian writer, a real genuine hater of Britain. He says:

"Britain is a menace to the safety of Europe. She is the most aggressive power of modern times. There is no part of the world where she has not established her garrisons or her colonies. Her fleet dominates every sea. What power is there that has not suffered

from her ambition? She has torn Gibraltar from Spain, Malta and Canada from France, Heligoland from Denmark, the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch, the Gold Coast from the Portuguese, and Hong Kong from China. She has built up by the sword a military power in Asia, which secures her Government over two hundred millions in India. At Aden she holds the gate of the Red Sea. At Singapore she commands the road to China. From Fiji she dominates the Pacific. Her territory is vaster than that of Russia, and greater in extent than all Europe without Russia. Russia annexes no population, except Slavs and a few tribes in Asia, while of two hundred and fifty millions of Britain's subjects only twenty million are Englishmen. What nationality has not some of its members under British rule? Italians at Malta, Spaniards at Gibraltar, Arabs at Aden, Germans at Heligoland, Dutch at the Cape, Chinese at Hong Kong, Malays at Malacca, Hindoos in India, Kaffars in South Africa, Maories in New Zealand, and French and Indians in Canada."

A French writer of similar tendencies thus groups the facts for us:

"Are there any other seas, any other continents; seek an inhabited or an uninhabited spot where Britain has not planted her flag? All newly discovered lands she unhesitatingly annexes to herself. When will this insolent usurpation cease? What balance of power can exist in the world in the face of such ambition, which increases with conquest and becomes extravagant by dint of impunity? It is not one nation, but every nation which should open their eyes. It is essential not for one people, but for every people to know whether the ocean itself is free, and if the whole universe is to fall back in the presence of the dominion of the shop-keeping Caesars."

Victor Hugo speaks more kindly:

"Over that sea, in calm majesty, lies the proud island whose existence consoles me for a thousand continental crimes, and vindicates for me the goodness of Providence. Yes, yes, proud England, thou art justly proud of thy colossal strength—more justly of thy godlike repose. Stretched upon the rock, but not like Prometheus, and with no evil bird to rend thy side, rests the genius of England.

"He waits his hour, but counts not the hours between. He knows that it is rolling up through the misty gloom of ages, and that the chariot is guided by the iron hand of destiny. Dare I murmur that the mists will clear for me, that I shall not hear the rumbling wheels of the chariot of the hour of England. It will come—it is coming—it has come. The whole world, aroused as by some mighty galvanism, suddenly raises a wild cry of love and admiration, and throws itself into the bounteous bosom of England.

"Henceforth there are no nations, no peoples, but one and indivisible will be the world, and the world will be one England. Her

virtue and her patience have triumphed. The lamp of her faith, kindled at the Apostolic altars, burns as a beacon to mankind. Her example has regenerated the erring, her mildness has rebuked the rebellious, and her gentleness has enchanted the good. Her type and her temple shall be the Mecca and Jerusalem of a renewed universe."

And in 1842 he wrote :

"England holds the six greatest gulfs in the world, which are the Gulfs of Guinea, Oman, Bengal, Mexico, Baffin, and Hudson. She opens and shuts at her pleasure nine seas: the North Sea, the English Channel, the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Ionian Seas, the Archipelago, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, and Sea of the Antilles. She possesses an empire in America, New Britain; in Asia, an empire, Hindostan; and in the great ocean, a world, New Holland.

"Besides, she has innumerable isles upon all the seas and before all the continents, like ships on stations and at anchor; and with which, island and ship, herself planted in Europe, she communicates, so to speak, without dissolving her continuity by her innumerable vessels, floating islands. The English people is not of itself a sovereign people, but it is for other nations an empire. It governs feudally 2,370,000 Scotch, 8,280,000 Irish, 244,000 Africans, 60,000, Australians, 1,200,000 Americans, 124,000,000 Asiatics; that is to say, 14,000,000 of English possess upon the earth 137,000,000 of men. All the places named are the hooks of the immense net whereby England has taken the world."

An English writer says :

"Taking into account only the colonies of England, and the population increases forty per cent. each decade, we shall shortly see thirty to forty millions of British people scattered over the earth, and in less than a century there will be two hundred millions of Anglo-Saxons on the globe. This, irrespective of the population of America. How remarkable the fact that the Anglo-Saxon race should be the one only race that is expanding! What a sign of rich and manifold blessing to the world! It might have been the Muscovite, or the Spaniard, or the Hindoo, or the Moslem who had become the colonizer of the world. How terrible in that case would have been the prospect before the species! The blackness of darkness would have rested on the future. We would have felt that we were rapidly and inevitably approximating the extinction of liberty, and that a revolution was in progress, which would as surely bring the world under the shadow of a universal tyranny and a universal idolatry as the revolution of the earth on its axis brings it under the shadow of night. Amazing phenomenon! On all sides dead or dying nations; one trunk alone, the Anglo-Saxon to wit, has life in it, but a life so vigorous that it is filling the earth with its boughs."

her faith, ind. Her buked the Her type a renewed

ich are the dson. She the English the Archi- She pos- an empire, nd.

nd before all with which, cicates, so to able vessels, a sovereign ns feudally 000, Austra- it is to say, 000 of men. net whereby

nd the popu- I shortly see er the earth, 1 millions of population of o-Saxon race hat a sign of ave been the lem who had at case wculd ness of dark- e felt that we ion of liberty, surely bring d a universal ings it under sides dead or rit, has life in h its boughs."

Mr. Dupin, in his *Force Commerciale de la Grande Bretagne*, (1826,) writes :

" In Europe the British Empire borders at once towards the north upon Germany, upon Holland, upon France; towards the south upon Spain, upon Sicily, upon Italy, upon Western Turkey; *It holds the keys of* the Adriatic and Mediterranean; it commands the mouth of the Black Sea as well as the Baltic. In America it gives boundaries to Russia toward the Pole; and to the United States towards the Temperate regions. Under the Torrid Zone it reigns in the midst of the Antilles, encircles the Gulf of Mexico, till at last it meets those States which it was the first to free from their dependence on their mother country, to make them more surely dependent on their own commercial industry, and, at the same time, to scare in either hemisphere any mortal who might endeavor to snatch the heavenly fire of genius, or the secrets of its conquests, it holds midway between Africa and America and on the road which connects Europe with Asia, that rock to which is chained the Prometheus of the modern world. In Africa from the centre of that island devoted of yore under the symbol of the Cross, to the safety of every Christian flag, the British Empire enforces from the Barbary States that respect which they pay to no other power. From the foot of the Pillars of Hercules it carries dread into the remotest parts of Morocco. On the shores of the Atlantic it has built the forts of the Gold Coast and of the Lion's Mountain. It is from thence that it strikes the prey which the Black furnishes to the European races of men; and it is there that it attaches to the soil the freedmen whom it snatches from the trade in slaves. On the same continent, beyond the tropics, and at the point nearest to the Austral Pole, it has possessed itself of shelter under the very Cape of Storms. Where the Spaniards and the Portuguese thought only of securing a port for their ships to touch at, where the Dutch saw no capabilities beyond those of a plantation, it is now establishing the colony of a second British people, and uniting English activity with Batavian patience, at this moment it is extending around the Cape the boundaries of a settlement which will increase in the south of Africa to the size of those States it had founded in the north of America. From this new focus of action and of conquest it casts its eye towards India; it discovers, it seizes the stations of most importance to its commercial progress, and thus renders itself the exclusive ruler over the passes of Africa from the east of another hemisphere. Finally, as much dreaded in the Persian Gulf and the Erythrean Sea as in the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Archipelago, the British Empire, the possessor of the finest countries of the east, beholds its factors reign over eighty millions of subjects. The conquests of its merchants in Asia begin where those of Alexander ceased and where the terminus of the Romans could not reach. At this moment from the banks of the Indus to the frontier of China, from the mouth of the Ganges to the mountains of Thibet, all ac-

knowledge the sway of a mercantile company shut up in a narrow street in the city of London."

"Let India boast her palms, nor envy we
 The weeping amber nor the spicy tree,
 While by our oaks those precious loads are borne
 And realms commanded which these trees adorn."

Thus said that eminent savant, Provost Paradal :

"Two rival powers, but only one as to race, language, customs, and laws—England and the United States of America—are, with the exception of Europe, dominating the world. How is it possible not to recollect we could once have hoped that our race and language would be chosen by European civilizations to invade the remainder of the world? We had every chance on our side. It was France which, through Canada and Louisiana, began to embrace North America; India seemed to belong to us; and were it not for mistakes political liberty could have spared to our fore-fathers, the language and blood of France would in all likelihood occupy in the world the place the language and the blood of England have irreversibly conquered; for destiny has spoken, and at least two portions of the globe, America and Oceanica, henceforth and forever belong to the Anglo-Saxon race. Moreover, now-a-days a book written in English is much more widely read than if it had been written in French; and it is with English words that the navigator is hailed on almost all the accessible coasts of the earth. However, that actual predominance of the Anglo-Saxon race everywhere out of Europe is but a feeble image of what an approaching future has in store for us. According to the most moderate calculation, founded on the increase of the population during the last decennial period, the United States will number more than a hundred millions of inhabitants at the end of the present century, without speaking of the probable annexation of Mexico and of the extension of the American Republic to the Panama Isthmus. Brazil and the several States of South America weigh very lightly by the side of such a power; and they will disappear when the masters of the northern continent think fit to extend themselves.

"At all events the American continent is, in its whole extent, destined to belong to the Anglo-Saxon race; and if we take into account the increase of speed which is so very notable in human events, it is very likely that such an important change will be accomplished in the course of about a century or a century and a half. It is not the less certain that Oceanica belongs forever to the Anglo-Saxons of Australia and New Zealand; and in that part of the world the march of events will be very rapid."

The learned writer then comments on the marvelous material progress of this portion of the British Empire, and adds that it is easy

to foresee that China, to which they stand nearer than any civilized nation, will acknowledge them masters sooner or later.

"It is certain," he continues, "that the United States will play a great part in the East, when the Pacific will be in great activity. But Australia can beat the United States with speed; and in any case will contend with the United States for the commercial and political supremacy in the far East. Neither Russia nor United Germany, supposing they should attain the highest fortune, can attempt to impede that current of things nor prevent that solution—relatively near at hand—of the long rivalry of European races for the ultimate colonization of the universe. The world will not be Russian, nor German, nor French, alas! nor Spanish; for it can be asserted that, since the great navigation has given the whole world to the enterprise of the European races, three nations were tried, one after the other, by fate, to play the first part in the fortune of mankind, by everywhere propagating their tongue and blood, by means of durable colonies, and by transforming, so to say, the whole world to their own likeness. During the sixteenth century it was rational to believe that Spanish civilization would spread all over the world; but irremediable vices soon dispersed that colonial power, the vestiges of which, still covering a vast space, tell of its ephemeral grandeur. Then came the turn of France; and Louisiana and Canada have presented the sad remembrance of it. Lastly, England came forward; she definitely accomplished the great work; and England can disappear from the world without taking her work with her—without the Anglo-Saxon future of the world being sensibly changed."

The writer then goes on to show that even if Russia should possess Constantinople she would never be able to counterbalance the naval powers of the Anglo-Saxons; and, as to her military progress, it would at once be stopped when it happens to meet either England in India, the United States or Australia in China; and the same argument applies to other nations.

* * * * *

"When affairs shall have reached that climax—and it is not too much to say that two centuries will suffice for it—will it be possible to deny, from one end of the globe to the other, that the world is Anglo-Saxon.

* * * * *

"Thus we can foretell, through imagination, that future situation of the world, and glance at that picture, the main lines of which are, so to say, already sketched by the hands of fate. And if we are inclined seriously to ask ourselves in what time earth shall have taken that new form, we shall easily perceive that two centuries are scarcely necessary to bring to its apogee the Anglo-Saxon grandeur in the Oceanian region, as well as on the American continent.

That greatness once established, no one shall be able to menace it from without, like Rome, which was surrounded on every side by a barbarous world. There are no more barbarous nations, and the race which will be invested with the guidance of mankind will have to fear neither the competition nor the appearance of a new race."

D'Aubigny, the celebrated historian of the Reformation, after a visit to England, cannot refrain from giving vent to similar impressions:

"I have been struck with admiration at beholding the people of those islands, encompassing the globe, bearing everywhere civilization and Christianity, commanding the most distant seas, and filling the earth with the power and the Word of God. At the sight of such prosperity and greatness I said: Aseribe ye strength unto God; His excellency is over Israel, and His strength is in the clouds. O, God, Thou art terrible out of Thy Holy places. The God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. Blessed be God."

And in another paragraph the same eminent man remarks:

"The Constitution of England, the balance of her powers, the slow but sure energy of the universal thought of the people, all this is so beautiful that we cannot but recognize the Master-hand."

Again:

"What Tacitus said of the Britons is still true of them. They respect power, but cannot suffer the abuse of it. They know how to obey, but not how to serve."

Montesquieu gave utterance to some apothegms apposite to the subject on which I am treating:

"No people have true common sense but those born in England."

"The Constitution of England is the admiration and the envy of the world; the pattern for politicians; the theme of the eloquent; the meditation for the philosopher, in every part of the world."

"The immediate object of their Government is political liberty; they possess more freedom than any republic; and their system is in fact a republic disguised as a monarchy."

It must be remembered these are not exclamations of the present hour, but the production of one of the greatest writers of any age.

Emanuel Swedenborg remarked:

"For the English nation the best of them are in the centre of all

Christians, because they have interior intellectual light. This appears conspicuously in the spiritual world. This light they derive from the liberty of speaking and writing, and thereby thinking."

Phillip de Commynes expressed himself thus:

"Now, in my opinion, among all the sovereignties I know in the world, that in which the public good is best attended to, and the least violence exercised on the people, is that of England."

Lamartine, in his History of the Girondists, although often attacking the policy of Great Britain, pays tribute to the greatness of the Empire and the grandeur of the character of its statesmen. He writes :

"In England the mind a long time free had produced sound morals. The aristocracy considered itself sufficiently strong never to become persecuting again.

"England had been intellectually the model of nations and the envy of the reflecting universe. Nature and its institutions had conferred upon it men worthy of its laws."

Grosley, struck with amazement, exclaims :

"Property in England is a thing sacred which the laws protect from all encroachment, not only from engineers, inspectors, and other people of that stamp, but from the king himself."

"In England," says Helvetius, "the people are respected ; every citizen can take some part in the management of affairs and authors are allowed to enlighten the public respecting their own interest."

And Brissot, who had made these matters his especial study, cries out :

"Admirable constitution ! which can only be disparaged either by men who know it not or else by tongues bridled in slavery."

"The English nation," says Voltaire, "is the only one on earth which, by resisting its kings, has succeeded in lessening their power. How I love the boldness of the English ! How I love men who say what they think !"

"The English," says LeBlanc, "are willing to have a king, provided they are not bound to obey him."

"For forms of government let fools contest,
Whatever's best administered is best."

Although the converse is believed to be the fact, no country or government yields more readily and implicitly than England to

public opinion. It makes and unmakes an administration in an hour.

Upon this feature LeBlanc, a Frenchman, writes:

"Public opinion in England! Woe to him who defies it! There will be invoked against him no test of law; before no court will he be taken; there will be started against him no police officers or gendarmes; but he will run the risk of dying for want of air and of disappearing crushed by the weight of indifference or scorn!"

The one thing remarkable about England is that it worked out its civilization alone. It is a self-made country, as we speak now-a-day of the self-made man.

Buckle says this peculiar merit is universally admitted, and adds:

"I say nothing of the number of our discoveries, the brilliancy of our literature, or the success of our arms. These are invidious topics; and other nations may perhaps deny to us merits which we are apt to exaggerate. But I take up this single position, that, of all European countries, England is the one where, during the longest period, the government has been the most quiescent and the people most active; where popular freedom has been settled on the widest basis; where each man is most able to say what he thinks and do what he likes; where every one can follow his own bent and propagate his own opinions; where religious persecution being little known, the play and flow of the human mind may be clearly seen, unchecked by those restraints to which it is elsewhere subjected; where the profession of heresy is least dangerous and the practice of dissent most common; where hostile creeds flourish side by side and rise and decay without disturbance, according to the wants of the people, unaffected by the wishes of the church and uncontrolled by the authority of the State; where all interested, both spiritual and temporal, are most left to take care of themselves, * * * and where, in a word, those dangerous extremes, to which interference gives rise, having been avoided, despotism and rebellion are equally rare, the national progress has been least disturbed by the power of the privileged classes, by the influence of peculiar sects, or by the violence of arbitrary rulers."

The same writer forcibly illustrates the reliance of the aristocracy on the people, and adds that it naturally followed that the people imbibed that tone of independence and that lofty bearing of which our civil and political institutions are the consequence, rather than the cause. It is to this, and not to any fanciful peculiarity of race, that we owe the steady and enterprising spirit, for which the inhabi-

tants of this island have long been remarkable. It is this which has enabled us to baffle all the arts of oppression and to maintain for centuries liberties which no other nation has ever possessed.

The Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, one of England's greatest preachers, uses the following language:

"Parallel with this stands the fighting power of the race. God grant that we may never have to use it; but it is there, and it is well for the world that it is there, the power to hold against all comers the empire which we have won. Of old, at Crecy and Agincourt, our soldiery made them a name of renown. In recent times, the wars of Marlborough and Wellington, Inkerman and India, perpetuate our fame. Marshal Bugeaud, no mean judge, is reported to have said, 'The English infantry is the finest in the world; but then, thank God, there is so little of it.' It is well for us, as well as for the world, that there is so little of it. We might be tempted to become that pest of civilization—a military nation devoted to military glory.

"As it is, we have just force enough to hold our own, and a reputation of power which will make the greatest military empire disposed to think many times before ranging us in the ranks of its foes, as was when in the Franco-Prussian war Belgium was as safe as London under our shield. * * *

"But altogether more precious to us than our power to win and to hold empire is the power to rule our subjects. This, also, among the great gifts of Providence, has not been withheld. We have under our sway the widest empire, in point of extent and population, which is known to history. Speaking roughly, about one-third of the human race scattered over the four continents is subject to the sceptre of our Queen."

"The power whose flag is never furl'd,
Whose morning drum beats round the world."

Lecky, the great historian and philosopher, says of the Anglo-Saxon race:

"That the great source of their national virtues is their sense of duty, the power of pursuing a course which they believe to be right, independently of all considerations of sympathy or favor, of enthusiasm or success. Other nations have far surpassed them in many qualities that are beautiful, and in some that are great.

"It is the merit of the Anglo-Saxon race that beyond all others it has produced men of the stamp of a Washington or a Hampden; men careless indeed for glory, but very careful of honor; who made the supreme magnitude of moral rectitude the guiding principles of their lives; who proved in the most trying circumstances that no allurements of ambition and no storms of passion could cause them

to deviate one hair's breadth from the course they believed to be their duty. The unwearied, unostentatious, and inglorious crusade of England against slavery may probably be regarded as among the three or four perfectly virtuous acts recorded in the history of nations."

Time will not permit me to make copious extracts from American writers and statesmen. I select from a paper published in California an article headed *Russia vs. England*, December 20, 1874:

"England holds the reins of the world, and it is no use for us to deny it. Her dominions cover more ground on this globe of ours than any other nation can lay claim to. On this very continent—the Monroe doctrine to the contrary notwithstanding—she possesses a greater extent of territory than this glorious Union. * * * Aside from this poor stretch of earth, how much does England own? We give it up. For if we guessed aright to-day our calculation would be set wrong by her new acquisitions to-morrow. The number of Victoria's subjects? Well, they quadruple those of any other earthly sovereign, and there we cease to answer conundrums."

The following is from a Washington paper of recent date:

"Great Britain owns nearly nine million square miles of the earth's surface. The United States own about three millions. Between them these two nations control more than one-fourth of the surface of the globe."

The *Liverpool Times* announced the birth of the Prince of Wales by summarizing the vast extent of the Empire of Great Britain thus forcibly:

"Salutes in honor of his birth will be fired in America on the shores of the Hudson Bay, along the whole line of the Canadian lakes, in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, in the Bermudas, at a hundred points in the West Indies, in the forests of Guiana, and in the distant Falkland Islands near Cape Horn; in Europe, in the British Islands, from the rock of Gibraltar, from the impregnable fortifications of Malta, and in the Ionian Islands; in Africa, on the Guinea coast, and St. Helena, and Ascension from the Cape to the Orange river, and at the Mauritius; in Asia, from the fortress of Aden in Arabia, at Karrack, in the Persian Gulf, by the British arms in Afghanistan, along the Himalaya Mountains, the banks of the Indus and the Ganges to the southern point of India, in the Island of Ceylon, beyond the Ganges in Assam and Arracan, at Prince of Wales' Island and Singapore; on the shores of China, at Hong Kong and Chusan; and in Australia, at the settlements formed on every side of the Australian continent and islands, and in the strait which separates these islands of the New Zealanders.

No prince has ever been born in this or any other country, in ancient or modern times, whose birth would be hailed with rejoicings at so many different and distant points at every quarter of the globe."

Lester, an American writer, remarks upon this newspaper waif:

"After glancing over this catalogue of countries, we might well inquire where is there a spot where English cannon do not speak English power? Along the St. Lawrence, Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Michigan, one booming shot rolls down over these free States saying 'England is here and her cannon too.' The wandering tribes of the western prairies and Guianian forests hear it and cower back to their fastnesses, for England is there. It sends terror through millions of hearts as it thunders from the harbors and fortresses of the East Indies. The vessels entering the Mediterranean turn an anxious eye to the rocks of Gibraltar as the smoke slowly curls up their sides; and the report of a thousand cannon say in most significant language that England is there. To the reflecting man there is *meaning* in that shot that goes round the earth. England sends her messengers abroad to every nation and the insignia of her power are scattered among all the tribes of the great family of man; while she sits amid the sea, as if her power was the centre of tides, whose pulsations are felt on every shore and up every continent-piercing river. To England we accord greatness; there is something in her name which awes mankind. The pressure of her hand is felt on every government, and her voice is heard at the council boards of every nation. To one who looks only on the territory of England proper, the extent of her dominion seems incredible. That a small island should rule half continents is indeed strange. No other nation since Rome has so expanded herself, reached out such long arms, and with them grasped so much, and so strongly. How so small a body can extend and wield such immense limbs surprises those who calculate power from physical strength.

"It is the *moral* power of England that has carried her so high. * * * No throne since the world stood has had such intellects gathered round it as the British throne. The clear heads that encircled it have ever been her firmest bulwarks. It was this moral power alone that made America her successful antagonist. Hitherto she had met physical force with moral power; but when she made her onset *here*, then 'Greek met Greek.' * * * England's *soul*, not her arms, has impressed itself on the world. It is the intelligence with which she speaks that swells her voice so far, and makes it remembered so long. It is the intelligence that guides her fleets and armies that makes them so formidable. Besides, there is a humanity about her when not crushed out by pride and love of power. The Commons of England have often shown a steadfast resistance to tyrants that has blessed the cause of human freedom the world over. * * * The yeomanry of England are superior to those of any other nation in Europe. Bold, intelligent, and upright, they ought

to constitute no small share of her glory. There is a love for the right and the true among them which equally resists lawlessness and oppression. It is the intelligence of these men which ought to be the foundation of the English Government.

* * * * *

“England also stands unrivaled in the great men and the literature she has given to the world. From Alfred, who laid the foundation of British history, till now, she presents a galaxy of illustrious men furnished in the annals of no ancient or modern empire. In her Milton she has more than a Homer; in her Bacon more than a Solon; and in her Shakespeare more than the earth has ever beheld in any other mould. Her literature has done more for human freedom and civilization than all the literature of other nations. Expansive in its nature, it has given men more comprehensive views and uncovered the treasures of the human intellect. It has revealed the true sources of power and taught men to know their strength. Bacon unbound the earth and set men acting intelligently, or rather marching forward instead of beating time. Newton unbound the heavens, and bade them roll in harmony and beauty before the eye of the intelligent.”

The same American book contains the following paragraph:

“In England and *out of* England one is everywhere met with evidences of her greatness. Whether he stands in the centre of London and feels the pulsations of that mighty heart which sends its life-blood to the farthest extremities of the British Empire, or enters her palaces and manufactories, or walks along her docks, or travels the world, the exclamation is still, Great and mighty England! Her power seems omnipotent. Her ships circle the pole and ‘put a girdle round the earth.’ Her cannons look into every harbor and her commerce flows to every nation. She has a word to say in every part of the habitable globe. Scarcely a nation projects an outward scheme without looking up to behold the aspect which England will assume towards it. Possessing the energy and valor of her Saxon and Norman ancestors, she has remained unconquered, unbroken, amid the changes that have ended the history of other nations. Like her own island, that sits firm and tranquil in the ocean that rolls around it, she has stood amid the ages of man and the overthrow of empires. A nation thus steadily advancing over every obstacle that checks the progress or breaks the strength of other governments, making every world-tumult in which to swell its triumphal march, *must* possess not only great resources, but great skill to manage them.”

Emerson, in his book on England, says:

“The culture of the day, the thought and aims of men, are English thoughts and aims. A nation considerable for a thousand years

since Egbert, it has in the last centuries obtained the ascendant, and stamped the knowledge, activity, and power of mankind with its impress. Those who resist it do not feel it or obey it less. The Russian in his snows is aiming to be English. The practical common sense of modern society, the utilitarian direction which labor, laws, opinion, religion take, is the natural genius of the British mind. The influence of France is a constituent of modern civility, but not opposed to the English for the most wholesome effect. The American is only the continuation of the English genius into new conditions. See what books fill our libraries. Every book we read, every biography, play, romance in whatever form, is still English history and manners."

In his speech at Manchester he said:

"That which gives a solitary American in the woods a wish to see England is the 'moral peculiarity of the Saxon race—its commanding sense of right and wrong—the love and devotion to that; this is the imperial trait which arms them with the sceptre of the globe."

Edward Everett, the distinguished American orator, who at one time represented the United States at the Court of St James, fifty years ago used the following language:

"It must be conceded that of all the States of Europe, England has been from an early period the most favored abode of liberty, the only part of Europe where, for any length of time, constitutional liberty can be said to have a stable existence. I am not the panegyrist of England, am not dazzled by her riches, nor awed by her power. The sceptre, the mitre, and the coronet, stars, garters, and blue ribbons, seem to me poor things for great men to contend for. Nor is my admiration awaked by her armies, mustered for the battle fields of Europe, her navies overshadowing the ocean, nor her empire overshadowing the farthest east. It is these and the price of guilt and blood, by which they are too often maintained, which are the cause why no friend of liberty can salute her with undivided affections. But it is the cradle and the refuge of free principles, though often persecuted, the school of religious liberty, the more precious for the struggles through which it has passed, the tombs of those who have reflected honor on all who speak the English tongue; it is the birthplace of our fathers, the home of the Pilgrims, it is these which I love and venerate in England. I should feel ashamed of an enthusiasm for Italy and Greece, did I not feel it for a land like this. In an American it would seem to me degenerate and ungrateful to hang with passion upon the traces of Homer and Virgil, and follow without emotion the nearer and plainer foot-steps of Shakespeare and Milton. I should think him cold in his love for his native land, who felt no melting in his heart for that other native country which holds the ashes of his ancestors."

The distinguished scholar on another occasion spoke of an unrecorded debt America owed to England. Had the United States been severed from any other nation, they never could have been a free commonwealth. It was the heritage of English laws, English customs, English freedom, that made it possible to found the present Republic. Had they sprung from other powers, they might have been saddled with a concordat, a military establishment, or worse. They did not spoliate England, but they became joint owners of her Anglo-Saxon energy, her laws, and her literature.

You all remember the eulogy of Daniel Webster :

“England is a power to which, for purposes of foreign conquest and subjugation, Rome, in the height of her glory, is not to be compared; a power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drum beat following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth daily with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England.”

It has been said that when the Gods made up the languages, they held a council, and, to the best of their ability, suited the different nations with a language; when, as they supposed, they had made all the languages needed, they found the English was forgotten, and, as it was dinner-time, they took a few words out of all the existing languages and mixed them together and gave them to the English.

Some one said :

“Fate jumbled them together, God knows how,
Whatever they were, they’re true-born English now.”

“Greek’s a harp we love to hear,
Latin is a trumpet clear,
Spanish like an organ swells,
Italian rings its bridal bells,
France with many a frolic mien
Tunes her sprightly violin,
Loud the German rolls his drum,
When Russia’s clashing cymbals come,
But Britains sons may well rejoice,
For English is the human voice.”

The respect and regard for the British Constitution in American jurisprudence is no mean testimony to its sterling merit. I will cite but a single instance, because of the distinguished character of the person who, before so august assembly as the United States Supreme

Court, invoked the authority of English decisions with force and argument as eloquent as his name has become illustrious. It was on a question of *habeas corpus* arising during the late civil war, when certain civilians were incarcerated upon the findings of a court-martial. The attention of the Court was called to recent English decisions, to some of which I will briefly allude.

Lieutenant Frye, in 1743, was imprisoned by a court-martial; an order of arrest was issued from a civil tribunal; it was not respected, and the members of the court-martial passed resolutions in reference thereto. Lord Chief Justice Wills arrested them all; they then made a submissive apology. When this was read in open court the Lord Chief Justice directed that it be recorded in the Remembrance office, that the present and future ages may know that whosoever set themselves up in opposition to the law, or think themselves above the law, will in the end find themselves mistaken.

The orator quoted the cases of the Earl of Leicester of 1322, of Sir Thomas Durrell of 1625, the great Bill of Rights of 1688, and remarked that since that time no King has dared suspend the writ. It is only to be done by Parliament. Next, he presented the famous case of Governor Wall of 1782, who, when twenty years after an occurrence in a British colony of Africa, was brought before the most august assembly in England to answer for having suspended the civil law. And so on, through many other cases, all in favor of personal liberty; and I may be pardoned for this detail when it is remembered that this testimony to English justice was given in an argument before the Supreme Court of the United States by so eminent a personage as the late President Garfield.

* * * * *

"Has He not hid her and her favored land
For ages safe beneath His sheltering hand,
Given her His blessing on the clearest proof,
Bid nations leagued against her stand aloof,
And charged hostility and hate to roar
Where else they would, but not upon her shore?"